

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 2954

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH US ML OAU

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO HOST GOVERNMENTS: MALI

REF: STATE 141940

1. I DISCUSSED SOUTHERN RHODESIA SITUATION AND ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORT WITH DEYDOU TRAORE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ON JUNE 21. I MADE THE PRESENTATION AS INSTRUCTED IN THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM AND ASKED FOR OAU SUPPORT OF THE CONCEPT OF ROUND-TABLE TALKS INVOLVING ALL THE PARTIES.

2. THE SECRETARY GENERAL RESPONDED THAT MALI'S POSITION WAS CLEAR. IT HAS ALWAYS STOOD FOR INDEPENDENCE AND MAJORITY RULE AND THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL ELEMENTS IN THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY. MALI THEREFORE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THE IDEA OF ROUND-TABLE TALKS, AND HE THOUGHT THE OAU WOULD NOT EITHER.

3. HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE OAU HAD CLEARLY GONE ON RECORD TO SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE SPOKESMAN FOR THE RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS. THE VALIDITY OF THAT STANCE WAS NOW PROVEN BY THE ACTIONS OF THE OTHERS IN ENTERING INTO THE SO-CALLED SALISBURY AGREEMENT AND IN THEIR REFUSAL TO

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JOIN IN THE PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ONE WOULD EXPECT IAN SMITH TO REJECT ROUND-TABLE TALKS, HE SAID, BUT FOR THE AFRICANS INSIDE RHODESIA TO DECLINE TO TALK TO THEIR BROTHERS WAS A "PAINFUL" SIGHT TO OTHER AFRICAN STATES.

4. WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT THE OAU'S EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD SEEM TO PRESENT AN OBSTACLE TO THE ACHIEVE-

MENT OF ROUND-TABLE TALKS AMONG ALL THE PARTIES, HE REPLIED, "NO, NOT AT ALL." THE OAU SUPPORTED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT; THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD STATED ITS READINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN ROUND-TABLE NEGOTIATIONS; THE OAU WOULD HAVE NO SEPARATE POSITION ON THE MATTER.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE MALIAN VIEW ON ROUND-TABLE TALKS APPEARS FAVORABLE TO OUR POSITION, WE WOULD NOT LOOK TO THE GRM DELEGATION TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN MOVING ANY KHARTOUM DISCUSSION IN THAT DIRECTION.
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